(b) In the aftermath of the Ayodhya incident and the Indian Airlines strike a Tourism Management Committee was constituted and in its meeting of 16th December 1992 under the Chairmanship of Minister of State for Tourism the following plan of action was decided:

* Effective publicity in overseas tourist market to counter negative image.
* Reassurance campaign through electronic and print media. Efforts to be made by overseas tourist offices, to pursuade travel agents/tour operators not to cancel visits.
* Visit abroad of high level reassurance delegations.
* Dialogue with High Commissions with a view to withdrawing /toning down adverse travel advisories.
* Special domestic campaign with concessions and holiday packages.

Hijacking of Indian Airlines plane

19. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian Airlines plane was recently, hijacked at Lucknow;

(b) if so, what are the details of the investigations made into the incident stating the security lapses identified; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The hijacker was carrying a small cloth bag in which he had kept his lunch box. He entwined white thread around two wooden pieces turning them in the form of table tennis balls and kept them inside the lunch box. These ball like objects were used later by him to project the threat of a bomb.

(c) The hijacker has been arrested and a criminal case registered against him by the Police.

Steps to attract tourist traffic

20. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH:
SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the violence that errupted after the Ayodhya incidents of Dec. 6, 1992, coupled with Indian Airlines pilots, strike, had dealt a severe blow to tourism this winter tourist season;

(b) if so, how does the tourist traffic and earnings therefrom during December, 1992 and January this year compare with that during 1990-91 and 1991-92; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to attract more tourists into the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The foreign tourist arrivals and the estimated foreign exchange earnings from them during the period December 1992 and January 1993 as compared to the same periods of the previous two years are as given below:

Period Dec-Jan	Tourist Arrivals	Estimated Foreign Exchange Earning(Rs. crore)
1990-91 .	324,443	511
1991-92 .	380,573	771
1992-93 (P)	323,663	789

P : Provisional.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to attract more tourists to the country include launching reassurance campaigns in the overseas markets, inviting travel writers and media persons to visit India to emphasis the safety of tourists in the country and improving tourist facilities and attractions in co-ordination with the State Governments and the private sector.

Losses due to strike by I.C.P.A. pilots

21. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of days for which pilots belonging to I.C.P.A. abstained from work/duty during the year 1992, and in 1993 so far;

(b) what is the number of flights which were cancelled and the consequent loss of revenue to the Indian Airlines;

(c) what are the reasons stated by the I.C.P.A. for such objections by the pilots;

(d) what are the demands of these pilots and what decision Government have taken thereon; and

(e) what preventive steps Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Pilots represented by Indian Commercial Pilots' Association remained on strike for 46 days from 10.12.92 to 24.1.93.

(b) During the period of strike, Indian Airlines operated a contingency schedule under which only about 25% to 30% of the normal scheduled capacity was offered, resulting in an estimated loss of revenue of Rs. 126.35 crores.

(c) and (d) The reasons/demands of Indian Commercial Pilots' Association as mentioned in their strike notice dated 24th November, 1992 were as under:—

- Reduction in basic pay of Commanders
- Violation of existing awards and settlements regarding career pattern
- Management not meeting its commitments/obligations regarding flying hours
- Creation of fear psychosis by the Management.

The strike was called off unconditionally on 24-01-1993.

(e) Bilateral talks are held by Indian Air lines Management to discuss and resolve various issues raised by the Unions. Unresolved issues, wherever necessary, are referred to the prescribed authorities for conciliation/arbitration. The management, while ameliorating genuine grievances of the employees, is committed to enforcing discipline.

Facilities to air taxi operators

22. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the period of the recent strike of Indian Airlines Pilots, Air Taxi firms were given certain facilities to cope with the air traffic needs of the public;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) how far the Air Taxi services succeeded in coping with the public needs?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The tair taxi operators, provided air services on routes, where there was a heavy demand